

# THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB OF CALIFORNIA

*(Information Prepared Solely for Submission to Invited Speakers)*

**MEMBERSHIP:** The Commonwealth Club's membership consists of nearly 14,000 members; some 8,000 of whom are located within 40 miles of San Francisco.

**FOUNDED** in 1903:

- (1) To provide an open forum for the discussion of disputed questions;
- (2) To investigate state, national and international problems and aid in their solution.

**PREVIOUS SPEAKERS:** Include most United States Presidents since the Club's founding, heads of state of leading nations, and other distinguished statesmen and thinkers.

**FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** All speakers pay their own expenses; the Club has never paid honorarium, hotel, or traveling expenses to a speaker.

**BROADCAST:** Friday Luncheon addresses are broadcast via delayed transcription by over 50 stations throughout California, Oregon, Washington and Nevada, as well as by Voice of America and National Public Radio which includes a network of 135 stations in 38 states, plus Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico.

**PRESS:** When material is made available by a speaker at least one week in advance, a multilithed summary of the salient points is sent to San Francisco Bay Area and other key California newspapers, wire services, radio, and television (for release at hour of speaking).

**PUBLICATION:** Highlights of Friday Luncheon addresses are published in the Club's weekly, "The Commonwealth"; circulation over 15,000.

# *A Few of the 3,000 Distinguished Speakers Who Have Appeared Before the Commonwealth Club of California Since 1903*

Chancellor Konrad Adenaur  
Vice President Spiro T. Agnew  
Saul D. Alinsky  
Mayor Joseph L. Alioto  
General H. H. "Hap" Arnold  
Dr. Christiaan Barnard  
President David P. Barrows  
Shirley Temple Black  
Ambassador Charles E. Bohlen  
Gov. Edmund G. "Pat" Brown  
Hon. Wm. Jennings Bryan  
U.N. Under Secy. Ralph J. Bunche  
Admiral Arleigh Burke  
Dr. Arthur F. Burns

« »

Mme. Claire L. Chennault  
Mme. Chiang Kai-shek  
General Mark Clark  
Hon. Tom C. Clark  
President James Bryant Conant  
President Calvin Coolidge  
Clarence Darrow  
President Charles de Gaulle  
Cecil B. de Mille  
President Eamon DeValera  
President Lee A. DuBridge  
Secretary John Foster Dulles

« »

Cyrus Eaton  
Foreign Minister Abba Eban  
Dr. Paul R. Ehrlich  
President Dwight D. Eisenhower  
Chancellor Ludwig Erhard  
Henry Ford II  
Secretary James Forrestal  
Gen. James M. Gavin  
Sir John Glubb (Pasha)  
Arthur Godfrey  
Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg  
Hon. Barry Goldwater  
President Samuel Gompers  
Billy Graham  
Najeeb Halaby  
Lord Halifax  
Admiral William F. Halsey  
Archbishop Edward J. Hanna  
Hon. W. Averell Harriman  
Sen. Vance Hartke  
Dr. S. I. Hayakawa  
William Randolph Hearst, Jr.  
Victor Herbert

Ms. Aileen C. Hernandez  
Hon. Walter J. Hickel  
Conrad Hilton  
Charles Hitch  
Prof. Sidney Hook  
President Herbert Hoover  
Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey  
Sen. Jacob K. Javits  
Marshal Joseph Joffre  
Hon. Walter H. Judd  
Queen Juliana

« »

Herman Kahn  
President Edgar F. Kaiser  
Hon. Nicholas deB. Katzenbach  
Senator Robert F. Kennedy  
Premier Alexander Kerensky  
Chair, Nikita Khrushchev  
Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
President Tully C. Knoles  
Senator Wm. F. Knowland  
Nguyen Cao Ky  
Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia  
Ann Landers  
John L. Lewis  
Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.  
Hon. Clare Boothe Luce  
Editor Henry R. Luce  
Prime Minister Harold Macmillan  
U.N. President Charles Malik  
Guglielmo Marconi  
Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk  
Dr. Charles H. Mayo  
Senator Eugene J. McCarthy  
Senator Joseph R. McCarthy  
Hon. Paul N. (Pete) McCloskey, Jr.  
Archbishop Joseph T. McGucken  
President George Meany  
Dr. Roy W. Menninger  
Hon. V. K. Krishna Menon  
Ralph Nader  
Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu  
Admiral Chester Nimitz  
President Richard M. Nixon  
Premier Ignace Jan Paderewski  
Madame Vijayalakshmi Pandit  
Lord C. Northcote Parkinson  
King Paul of Hellenes  
Dr. Linus Pauling  
Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary

Westbrook Pegler  
Sen. Charles H. Percy  
Governor Gifford Pinchot  
President Georges Pompidou  
Dr. Stefan T. Possony  
Gov. Ronald Reagan  
Walter Reuther  
President Syngman Rhee  
Captain Edward Rickenbacker  
Paul Robeson  
Gov. Nelson Rockefeller  
Gov. George Romney  
General Carlos P. Romulo  
President Franklin D. Roosevelt  
President Theodore Roosevelt  
General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.  
Hon. Eugene V. Rostow  
Chester H. Rowell  
Secretary Dean Rusk

« »

Harrison E. Salisbury  
Robert W. Sarnoff  
Dr. Fayez A. Sayegh  
Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg  
Emperor Haile Selassie I  
Explorer Ernest Shackleton  
Nobel Laureate Wm. Shockley  
Otis Skinner  
Senator Margaret Chase Smith  
Tom Smothers  
Hon. Paul Henri Spaak  
President Robert Gordon Sproul  
Lincoln Steffens  
Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson

« »

Senator Robert A. Taft  
President William Howard Taft  
General Maxwell D. Taylor  
Dr. Edward Teller  
Norman Thomas  
President Harry S. Truman  
Dr. Wernher Von Braun  
Gov. George C. Wallace  
Hon. Caspar W. Weinberger  
President Benjamin Ide Wheeler  
President Ray Lyman Wilbur  
Roy Wilkins  
President Woodrow Wilson  
Rabbi Stephen S. Wise  
Hon. Whitney M. Young, Jr.

fore the Club's Study Sections. *The Commonwealth* also advises members of forthcoming speakers at both the general meetings and the Sections, and other information of importance.

#### radio network

The Friday talks of the Commonwealth Club are brought to listeners throughout 40 states, plus the District of Columbia; in addition they are heard overseas on the Voice of America. These stations carry the talks every week as a public service. National Public Radio has the largest number of radio stations—approximately 135. The Club also has a regular radio station network in six western states of approximately 50 radio stations. Some of the stations broadcast the full Friday talks; others also carry the question and answer period; a third group carries the 15-minute question and answer period. All of the stations advise their listeners of the availability of free talk condensations published in *The Commonwealth*. Requests for these have come from every state in the West.

#### accomplishments

The Club's influence has been felt largely via its Reports, as the Club does not engage in legislative activity. Copies of the important Reports, with their pro and con analyses, are sent to Congressmen and Legislators for their information. Commonwealth Club studies and analyses have covered such problems as:

- Small Claims Court.
- Establishment of the office of Public Defender.
- The State Judicial Council to unify the State's courts.
- The sponsor system of candidate nomination.
- Permanent voter registration.
- Permanent civilian defense and disaster preparedness statutes.
- Voters' pamphlet on ballot measures.
- General revision of Code of Criminal Procedure.
- Convenient voting hours law.
- Election of non-partisan officers receiving primary majority.
- Examination, before licensing automobile drivers.
- Absentee Voters Law.
- Regional government for San Francisco Bay Area.
- Rapid transit.
- Solid waste disposal methods.
- U.S. policy in Southeast Asia.
- Regulation of the quality of public waters.
- Insurance for natural disasters.

#### library

The Club's Library is maintained as part of the headquarters in the Monadnock Arcade, 681 Market Street. It includes 6,000 volumes largely concerned with those matters which the Club has studied through its Sections, such as subjects relating to state and local government. There is a fine quick reference shelf, an excellent news and periodical index, and one of the best collections of current biography in the area. Also included are many works by California authors, accumulated as entries in the Club's annual California literature contest.



#### club transactions

The proceedings, or "Transactions" of the Commonwealth Club of California, are frequently in demand by scholars and government officials seeking to find the background of a piece of legislation, for often these are the only published materials on important California issues of present and by-gone days. The bound volumes of the Club's Transactions since 1903, and those of Study Section minutes since 1924, are available to members in the Club Reading Room. A microfilm edition of the Club's publications is also available through University Microfilms of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

#### literature awards

One of the highlights of the year is the Literature Awards—the Club's gold and silver literature medals are presented to those California authors whose books published the preceding year are deemed "most worthy." The awards are preceded by a series of selection sessions by the Club's Literature Award Jury, made up of some of the State's foremost literates. In nearly four decades, the Commonwealth Club book contest has become recognized as one of the outstanding regional literary awards.

#### the board of governors and elected officers

Responsible for continuing the Club's tradition of service to state and nation, and for conducting the Club's affairs, are the members of the Board of Governors. They are selected from the membership based upon service to the Club and recognition in the community. A nominating committee consisting of the five immediate past presidents proposes the candidates, and election is by secret mail ballot of the entire Club. The Club's Executive Committee, selected from the Board, deals more closely with Section problems and financial matters. The President is chief executive officer.

#### distinguished speakers

Every President of the United States from Theodore Roosevelt to Dwight D. Eisenhower inclusive, and all California Governors from Pardee to Reagan have accepted invitations to speak to the Commonwealth Club of California.

A few of the other outstanding speakers heard by the Club's membership since 1903:

Spiro T. Agnew - Bella Abzug - Saul D. Alinsky - Joseph Alsop - Apollo 14 & 16 Astronauts - Shirley Temple Black - Willie Brown Jr. - Ralph J. Bunche - Dr. Arthur F. Burns - Mme. Chiang Kai-shek - Mme. Claire L. Chennault - Shirley Chisholm - Alan Cranston - Clarence Darrow - General Charles de Gaulle - Anatoly F. Dobrynin - Dr. Eleanor Dulles - John Foster Dulles - Cyrus Eaton - Abba Eban - Ludwig Erhard - Robert Finch - Henry Ford II - James Forrestal - Sir John Glubb (Pasha) - Barry Goldwater - Samuel Gompers - Billy Graham - Ms. Katherine Graham - Najeeb Halaby - Admiral William F. Halsey - William Randolph Hearst, Jr. - Ms. Aileen Hernandez - Charles Hitch - Hubert H. Humphrey - Sen. Jacob K. Javits - Queen Juliana - Herman Kahn - Sen. Robert F. Kennedy - Nikita Khrushchev - Rev. Martin Luther King - Richard Kleindienst - Nguyen Cao Ky - Ann Landers - Henry Cabot Lodge - Clare Boothe Luce - Harold Macmillan - Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy - George Meany - Dr. Roy W. Menninger - Hon. Wilbur D. Mills - Sen. Edward S. Muskie - Ralph Nader - Admiral Chester W. Nimitz - Richard M. Nixon - Lawrence O'Brien - David Packard - Lord C. Northcote Parkinson - President Georges Pompidou - King Paul of Hellenes - Dr. Linus Pauling - Walter Reuther - Syngman Rhee - Elliot Richardson - Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller - Dean Rusk - Emperor Haile Selassie I - Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg - Dr. Benjamin Spock - George P. Schultz - Adlai Stevenson - Dr. Edward Teller - Caspar W. Weinberger - Dr. Werner von Braun - Gov. George Wallace - Whitney M. Young, Jr. - Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.



LSZ 4/73

## COMMONWEALTH CLUB OF CALIFORNIA

Dedicated to  
"Getting the Facts"



COMMONWEALTH CLUB OF CALIFORNIA  
MONADNOCK ARCADE, 681 MARKET STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105  
362-4903



## HISTORY

At the turn of the century a San Francisco newspaperman, Edward F. Adams, believed our state needed a citizens' group to study public questions impartially and to publish reports, giving all sides of the issues, with the Club's recommendation. When a University of California president, a future Supreme Court Justice, a newspaper editor and a State College president joined him at the 1903 founding meeting, he knew the Club was on its way. A few years later the famous Friday forum feature of the Club—presenting distinguished speakers of a wide diversity of viewpoints—was established. Adams' basic ideas are still followed.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Commonwealth Club of California is concentrated in California, but there are members in all parts of the world. The primary qualification is that an applicant be a good citizen, concerned with matters of importance to the state, the nation, and the world; and recognized as such by his peers.

Headquarters are in San Francisco and the majority of members live in the San Francisco Bay Region. Some 40% live in other parts of California.

The dues structure reflects the fact that those at a distance are usually not able to participate as fully as those who live closer to San Francisco. There is a lower rate for members living more than 40 miles from San Francisco, as well as a special rate for those 21 through 29 years of age.

## ACTIVITIES

New ways of carrying out Founder Adams' basic ideas have been added to the Club's activities from time to time. But the Club still relies primarily on its Sections which study public questions, its Friday forums where the viewpoints of men of national stature are aired, and its research projects which "get the facts" on long-term fundamental issues. The published results of these activities are available to all members. There are also foreign study tours designed to supplement the work of the Club's Study Sections.

## FRIDAY SPEAKERS

Some three thousand speakers, many of international renown have addressed the world-recognized Friday meetings of the Commonwealth Club of California. Scientists, statesmen—nearly all the Presidents of the United States since 1903—educators, religious leaders, military chiefs, labor officials have brought their messages, uncensored, to the Club's audiences. Many heads of state have also been included.

People from all walks of life and points of view have spoken—those with the capes of a dozen honored degrees and those of no wide renown but with a significant message.

Even in the face of public opposition, the Club has maintained the position that it has the right to have speakers representing controversial points of view. Some of these speakers have included Sgt. Ben Kuroki, whose Commonwealth Club speech in the midst of World War II has been judged the most important factor in the peaceful return to this Coast of interned Americans of Japanese descent; more recently the Club had as its speaker Nguyen Cao Ky, the Vice President, Republic of Vietnam.

The Club is also unique, in that during Presidential election years, the membership has the opportunity to see and hear virtually every major Presidential candidate.



## STUDY SECTIONS

Unduplicated anywhere are the Study Sections of the Commonwealth Club of California—twenty-one individual "clubs within the Club," each dedicated to finding the facts in an important field of public concern. The unique nature of the Study Sections is that they always insist on all sides—always demand both the affirmative and the negative of any proposal and always include in their final report on any subject of study a summary of the most important arguments.

In the process the Club's Study Sections hear from the experts, from people in and out of government who know the most about a given issue. So, even to the member who can

attend only occasionally, Section talks are a significantly rewarding experience.

And when the experts appear before Study Sections they find many experts within their audience, for the Club's membership includes an unusually high percentage of California leaders—of men who know—and the Sections provide a place where laymen and expert meet together and where each may frequently enlighten the other.

The diversity of Study Sections is illustrated by the titles of a few of them: Administration of Justice; Agriculture; Business Economics; Consumer Protection; Environment; Governmental Finance; Transportation; International Relations; Local & Regional Govern-



ment; Urban Affairs; Water; the complete list appears elsewhere.

When a Section has heard "all sides" on an issue, a report is prepared, the information pro and con summarized, a vote taken by secret mail ballot on the most important aspects of the question. The report is then presented to a general meeting of the Club—with further discussion from all sides invited. The comments of the meeting are condensed and published, along with the complete report, and mailed to every member.

Characteristic of the Commonwealth Club is this secret mail ballot. It is the device whereby a Section determines its study topic, agrees upon its conclusions, and it is also used by the Club's membership as a whole to decide whether a Section's conclusions shall be the official recommendations of Commonwealth Club of California's membership. It is a precept of the Club that all these steps are taken on the basis of full information, pro and con, distributed to every member voting.

## BALLOT ISSUES

In even-numbered years, California voters are normally faced with from 15 to 20 state constitutional amendments, initiative acts, and referenda. For over half a century, one of the most sought after voting aids has been the

compilation of reports and recommendations by the Club's Study Sections, with the official vote of the entire Club membership. The Sections hear leading spokesmen pro and con before submitting their reports, and their reports contain the essential arguments on both sides, as well as the Section's recommendations. The Commonwealth Club Reports on ballot measures are generally considered the most authoritative information available.

## RESEARCH & EDUCATION



A permanent fund is maintained by the Club.

One of the main functions of the Club's Permanent Fund has been to conduct research on important state and national problems. Some of the subjects researched with Commonwealth

Club financing have been the Legislature of California, Compulsory Automobile Liability Insurance, the Population of California, California Social Welfare, "The Powers of the President in Foreign Affairs," and the current research project is on Open Space.

Extreme care is given to selection of a topic for research. A special committee of the Club's Board of Governors is appointed and, with the assistance of scholars and pundits, surveys the field. When the topic is determined, a research director is selected and a preliminary study made before the final study is undertaken. The work is always done by professional research people. The results have been widely influential in bringing about a better understanding of the important problems examined.

This Fund is also utilized to extend the range of the radio broadcasts of the Club's Friday speakers' talks.

## THE WEEKLY COMMONWEALTH

To many members, one of the most valuable services the Club offers (particularly to those unable to attend meetings very often) is *The Commonwealth*—a news-letter carrying every week, in brisk highlight form, the essence of the message of the preceding Friday's speaker and his answers to the more probing audience questions; also the most significant and instructive of the many talks be-